

Stem Cell FAQ

En Español

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Get up to speed on stem cell research, from basic information about what stem cells are to detailed descriptions of how stem cells can improve human health.

- **Stem cell definitions**

The term "stem cell" by itself can be misleading. There are embryonic stem cells, adult stem cells, cancer stem cells, and reprogrammed iPS cells, each with very different potential to treat disease. Learn more about the different types of stem cells and their origins.

- **Creating new types of stem cells**

Generating new stem cell lines is a major focus of many CIRM funded researchers. Learn why these new lines are considered so important for the field to move forward.

- **Stem cell therapies**

Stem cells have the potential to treat a wide range of diseases, including diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases, spinal cord injury, and heart disease. Learn why these cells are such a powerful tool for treating disease as well as what the current hurdles are before new stem cell therapies can become available.

- **Stem cells accelerating basic research**

In addition to replacing lost or damaged tissue, stem cells are expected to accelerate the type of basic drug discovery, drug screening, and disease research that is currently underway. Learn more about the many ways stem cells are used in basic medical research.

- **Stem cell research in California**

With funding from CIRM available to California researchers, the state is in a unique position within the United States. Learn more about how CIRM changes the landscape of research in California and about laws in other states.

- **Myths and misconceptions about stem cell research**

There are a lot of myths about stem cell research, the origin of the stem cells themselves, and the type of work that takes place. Learn what really takes place in stem cell research.

- **Stem Cell Tourism**

International stem cell clinics advertise cures to those who can pay. Learn about concerns over stem cell tourism and what CIRM is doing to bring real cures to patients who need them.

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